

City of Austin

FY21 Budget Recommendations

Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

Nehemiah Pitts III, Chair Commissioner

Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs)

- GTOPs is an essential component to implementing the COA Digital Inclusion Strategy adopted in 2014 with Council Resolution No. 20140320-056.
- COVID-19 has increased need for Digital Inclusion....
 - Digital Inclusion resource accessibility
 - Digital Inclusion Ecosystem innovations
 - Outcome focused alignment
- GTOPs budget was doubled last year and 2020 awards have been issued, with additional funding pathways and awardees depending upon funds.

CTTC Budget Recommendation: \$400,000 (as initially approved for FY-2020)

City Council Vote Tabulation

- Citizen Communication originated 2019 inquiry aligned with CTTC mission
- Open data portal enables the capability
- Other major Texas cities have vote tabulation systems
 - (e.g. Dallas City Council & Socrata)
- Meetings with City Clerk Office have confirmed...
 - Goal is a “Database of Votes”
 - Commercial Systems will require customization
 - Additional FTE resources will be required to work on Council voting history
 - Additional FTE resources could also address speaker sign-up and City Hall engagement

CTTC Budget Recommendation: \$101,858 ----- OR ----- \$75,400

1.) IT Database Administrator ----- OR ----- 2.) IT Application Developer

Residential Technology Study

- Current Residential Technology Study provides critical data on the levels of connectedness, device access, and digital literacy in Austin, particularly on our most vulnerable constituents.
- Current Residential Technology Study occurs every (3) years and is slated to take place in 2021, with a purposive sampling taking place this year.
- COVID-19 pandemic dynamics indicate greater frequency than (3) years is required to fairly address widening digital divide.
- Discussions with City Councilmember(s) about education and children being left further behind confirms need to more frequently assessment

CTTC Budget Recommendation: \$XX,XXX

- Specific amount to be calculated with Staff assistance

Remote Meeting Participation

- Spring of 2018 CTTC began discussing changes to the COA ordinance on video conferencing for Commission meetings to allow for remote participation
- Summer of 2018 CTTC began to meet with City Clerk's Office and City Hall IT management to discuss possibilities
- January of 2019 CTTC submitted a Council Committee Agenda item request
 - <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=313283>
- Spring 2019 Council Committee Agenda item reviewed at Audit and Finance Committee meeting with agreement to convene working group with City Clerk's Office
- Summer 2019 WG meetings began with CTTC, CTM, Legal and ATXN contacts present
- Fall 2019 CTTC pilot effort began with one completed round of testing
- January/February 2020 City Hall IT re-engaged about pilot efforts
- March 2020 COVID-19 impacts all meetings
- April 2020 City of Austin evaluating remote participation for all and assuming direction on the effort.

CTTC Budget Recommendation: N/A or TBD

- Pending question with City Clerk's Office about Board & Commissions Transition Taskforce.
 - <http://austintexas.gov/page/boards-and-commissions-transition-taskforce-members>

Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Summit

- COVID-19 has increased need for....
 - Digital Inclusion resource accessibility
 - Digital Inclusion Ecosystem innovations
 - Outcome focused alignment
- COVID-19 pandemic management
 - COA has necessarily restricted large gatherings
 - 60M budget shortfall will reduce likelihood of approval
- Transition to online delivery planning has begun

CTTC Budget Recommendation: N/A

- Pending confirmation on in-kind & corporate TARA funding options with staff.

Police Video Processing

- Citizen Communication and local media generated inquiry about APD Police video processing delays
- Michael Morton Act requires swift handling of video processing to prevent deferred justice, aka justice denied.
- APD video processing is reliant upon legacy, disparate systems that require manual processes and dedicated time currently borrowed from sworn unit
- Additional FTE focused on processing would diffuse the backlog

CTTC Budget Recommendation: TBD

- Pending FTE count needed and salary requirements